AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Page 5, line 28:

FIG. 4 is a side view of the firing handle mechanism and central rod configuration and is a continuation of FIG. 3.

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As shown in FIG. 3, a ~~A~~ hemorrhoidal ligator device for applying multiple rubber bands to desired tissue ~~comprising~~ includes a head assembly 10 for protrusion into the internal cavities of a life form, where the head assembly 10 includes an inner cylinder 12 and an outer cylinder 11 arranged in telescopic slidable relationship with respect to each other. The inner cylinder 12 includes an end portion that protrudes beyond the outer cylinder 11 and which inner cylinder 12 is preloaded with a plurality of rubber bands 13. The outer cylinder 11 ~~having~~ has an inner dimension for engaging the rubber bands 13 mounted on the end portion of the inner cylinder 12 such that the rubber bands are urged off the end portion of the inner cylinder 12 when said outer cylinder 11 is slid about the inner cylinder 12.

The ligator device further comprises a shaft assembly ~~20~~ 30 including a central rod 14 having a first end connected to the inner cylinder 12 and a second end for protruding out beyond the internal aspects of a life form. The outer rod 17 ~~having~~ has a first end rigidly connected to the outer cylinder 11 of the head assembly 10 and a second end for protruding out beyond the internal aspects of the life form. In this regard, the inner cylinder 12 and outer cylinder 11 can be manipulated internal to the life form by movement of the central rod 14 with respect to the outer rod 17 of the shaft assembly ~~20~~ 30 from outside the life form.

As shown in FIG. 4, the~~The~~ ligator device further includes a handle assembly ~~30~~ 20 mounted to the second ends of the central rod 14 and the outer rod 17 for use in manipulating the inner cylinder 12 and outer cylinder 11. Thus, the ligator device of the present invention consists of three basic parts: a head assembly 10, handle assembly 20 and shaft assembly 30.

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Referring to FIG. 4, the handle 20 and shaft 30 assemblies are shown. In one embodiment of the present invention, the central rod 14 passes through an aperture 19 in the

proximal aspect of the firing handle 21. Immediately posterior to the aperture 19, the central rod 14 passes through ~~a "V" or "N" shaped~~ an opening in a leaf spring ~~clip~~ 18, which secures the central rod 14 in place during firing of the ligator. The pawl 72 moves with the firing handle 21 to engage the ratchet 74 of the central rod to pull the inner cylinder 12 through the outer cylinder 11 and eject one of the rubber bands from the surface of the inner cylinder.

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~~It is anticipated that other alternative configurations of the spring clip 18 may include any means of temporarily securing the central rod 14 to the firing handle 21 mechanism. By way of example, as shown in FIG. 7, the spring clip 18 may be replaced with serrations 74 along the central rod 14. In this manner, pulling the firing handle 21 withdraws the rod 14 by means of a ratchet mechanism. In the ratchet configuration, a first spring 75 is used to draw the serrated central rod 14 rearward and a second spring 76 is used to stabilize and prevent forward slippage of the central rod 14.~~

In one configuration of the present invention, the handle assembly 20 ~~is comprised of~~ includes a firing handle 21 having two opposing grips 22 and 23, a pivot 24 and a spring 25. The firing handle 21 is articulated by means of a pivot 24, and is returned to the original position after firing by means of a spring 25 located within the grips 22, 23. During firing, the central rod 14 is retracted by the firing handle 21 by means of ~~a slidable spring clip 18, or~~ pawl 75 and ratchet serrations 74 ~~mechanism~~, which secures the central rod 14 to the firing handle 21 during firing. The central rod 14 is retracted by activating the firing handle 21 by the two opposing grips 22 and 23. Retraction of the central rod 14 causes the inner cylinder 12 to retract and forces the rubber bands 13 off the end of the inner cylinder 12.

To reload the inner cylinder 12, the central rod 14 can be rotated about its longitudinal axis to disengage its ratchet teeth 74 from the pawl 72 and spring 76, thus freeing the central rod and the inner cylinder for longitudinal movement ~~the spring clip 18 or ratchet mechanism is disengaged from the central rod 14, so releasing the central rod 14~~. The central rod 14 may then be advanced forward and the inner cylinder 12 may be detached for reloading or replacement. The inner cylinder 12 may then be detached and replaced with a preloaded cylinder or reloaded. Once the inner cylinder 12 is replaced, the central rod 14 is returned to its original position, and the spring ~~clip~~ 18

~~of~~ and pawl 72 are re-engaged with the ratchet mechanism ~~is re-engaged~~ back to ~~its~~ their original positions prior to firing.